

# SEA SERPENT WAS CIGARETTE FEND

Whipped a Whale That Followed Him to Pick Up Butts.

GREAT FIGHT, SAYS SKIPPER

And if You Doubt the Yarn He'll Quote You Latitude and Longitude.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Sept. 8.—Since the captain and cook and seventeen men, sunburned Scandinavian seamen saw the thing it must have been a real sea serpent. Nothing to it. The fact that the good ship Beacon was proceeding on this point with a line of peaches at the time should not put a dent in the narrative. There are peaches and peaches.

If anything further is needed to verify the story, take the latitude and longitude. It is impossible for sea serpents to exist where these imaginary lines are not. That is a cinch. Therefore, on August 25, in latitude 32.55, longitude 76.5, in the Gulf Stream, the steamer Beacon, bound up from Jamaica, fell in with the sea serpent.

Right from the jump the reptile developed two unusual characteristics. He was a cigarette fiend and wanted to lick a whale that was hanging around to pick up the butts. In fact, it was the serpent blowing the exhaust from a cigarette through his nose that first attracted the notice of Captain Peterson and his unbleached seamen.

At the fashionable hour of high noon the first puff of smoke issued from the sea two cable lengths from the Beacon on the port bow just about the lee booby hatch coamings. Soon the serpent followed the puff of smoke. He was coming up to spit.

"Cut down the sparker halyards and stand by to hoist the skipper's deck!" yelled Captain Peterson. "If that monster of the deep spits on us we'll sink!"

"Aye, aye, sir," said the cook, turning on his heel and walking aft. The exact position of the cook at the time was not known, and they always walk aft in these exciting episodes.

Meanwhile the smoking serpent let off another puff and stuck his head out of the sea. Being weakened by excessive indulgence in cigarettes, the demon of the deep was unable to hoist his head more than thirty feet above sea level. And such a head! His eyeballs resembled the Edam cheese of commerce, being pink and highly inflated, and criss-crossed with fine lines like the memorial windows in an avenue church.

Captain Peterson was at once alive to his danger.

"Fud and slow the flying jibboom and lower down the mainmast," he commanded in low, tense accents. As the sailors sprang to obey this order, the serpent pushed his head up a few feet higher and cut down the distance between himself and the ship to just one cable length. Smoke arose in clouds. While the sailors stood staring at the greasy spots on the deck, the reptile ducked his head and swatted the sea with sixty feet of his body, that moved a triumphal arch, alongside the ship.

Swallowed the Cigarette.

The concussion listed the captain's quid to starboard and threw the cook on his beam ends. Up rose a frothy column of water sufficient to swamp a Sunday school excursion steamer. In the smother of foam the still blue body of the serpent, six feet in diameter, writhed and twisted and gurgled.

He had swallowed the cigarette. When the tumult subsided and the ship ceased rocking, the serpent hung his wide-open face over the port taffrail and looked at the sailors.

"What do you reckon he wants now?" said Captain Peterson.

"Vit'les," said the cook. "These varmint's always hungry."

"Then why not appease him?" suggested the skipper.

"I've got a pair of doughnuts in the galley—the kind mother used to make," said the cook.

The captain took another look at the open countenance hanging over the rail.

"Try a ham," he said, "while I figure out the exact latitude and longitude." So the cook, assisted by the trembling seamen, appeased the monster. They tossed thirteen hams into his face. Luckily the hams were built at Cincinnati and not at Chicago, else the Beacon never would have reached this port. After swallowing his ham, without the And, the appeased and grateful serpent turned on the whale and whaled him plenty.

Guest at Luncheon.

Captain Peterson said the battle was very exciting, but he gave no details. He was too much taken up entertaining the serpent at luncheon. The captain would have offered his guest a little chipped beef from the bulwarks, but he couldn't find the axe until the rest had ended.

NO ALARM AMONG INVESTORS.

It is quite evident that the men who have money to lend do not believe that the overthrow of individualism is imminent. Despite the avalanche of socialist literature, they go right on estimating the value of an investment when it comes in the good category, by the length of time it has to run, the theory being the longer the better. There was any apprehension of a cataclysm instead of pinning their faith on remote future redemptions the capitalists would be burying their money in the ground or hiding it in holes in the wall.—San Francisco Chronicle.

REVIVING AN OLD ROAD.

Aside from the sentimental reasons for restoring the old national road from Cumberland, Md., to Vandalia, Ill., the highway would furnish the most satisfactory long distance course for automobile in the world. Automobile has become so much an established and proper form of recreation that recognition to this extent could not be taken amiss.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

JOB HAS NO ETYMOLOGY.

Dr. Johnson said that the word "job" was a low word, much in use, of which I cannot tell the etymology. It is supposed to be really identical with "job," a mouthful or morsel. Pepsy records how "my lord" said to him, "I will do you all the good jobs I can," and Pepsy himself speaks of Tanger as "hitherto used a job to do a kind ofness to some lord." But the simple moneyable ugliness of the word was too much for Johnson.

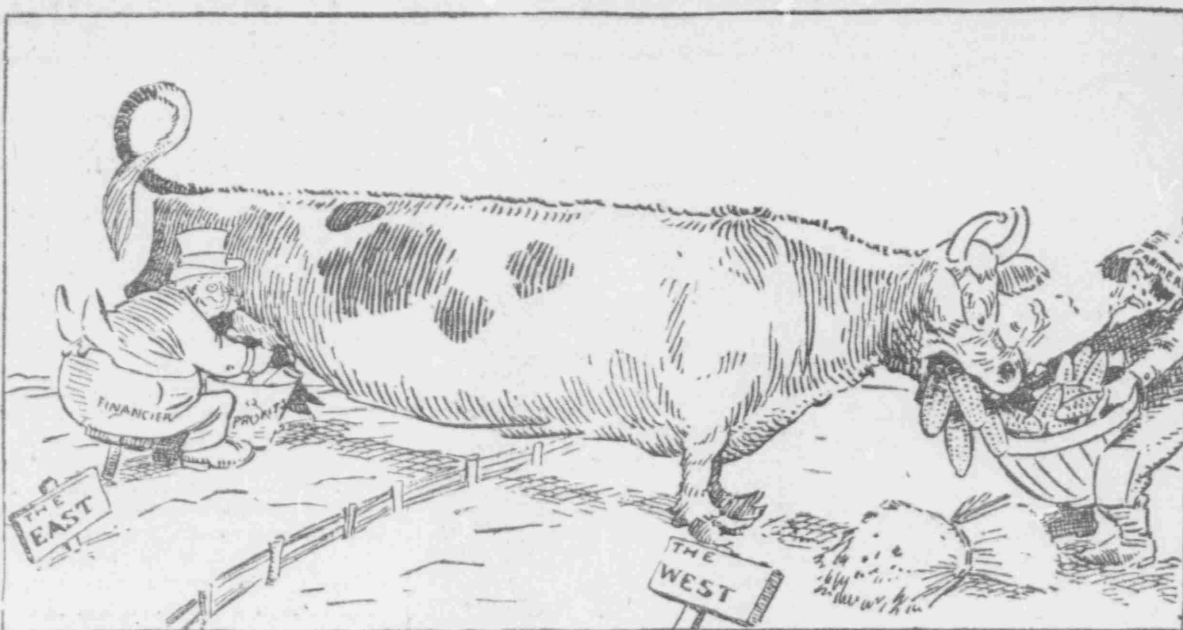
WAS WISE MAN.

First bald-headed man—No flies or mosquitoes bothered my bald head this summer.

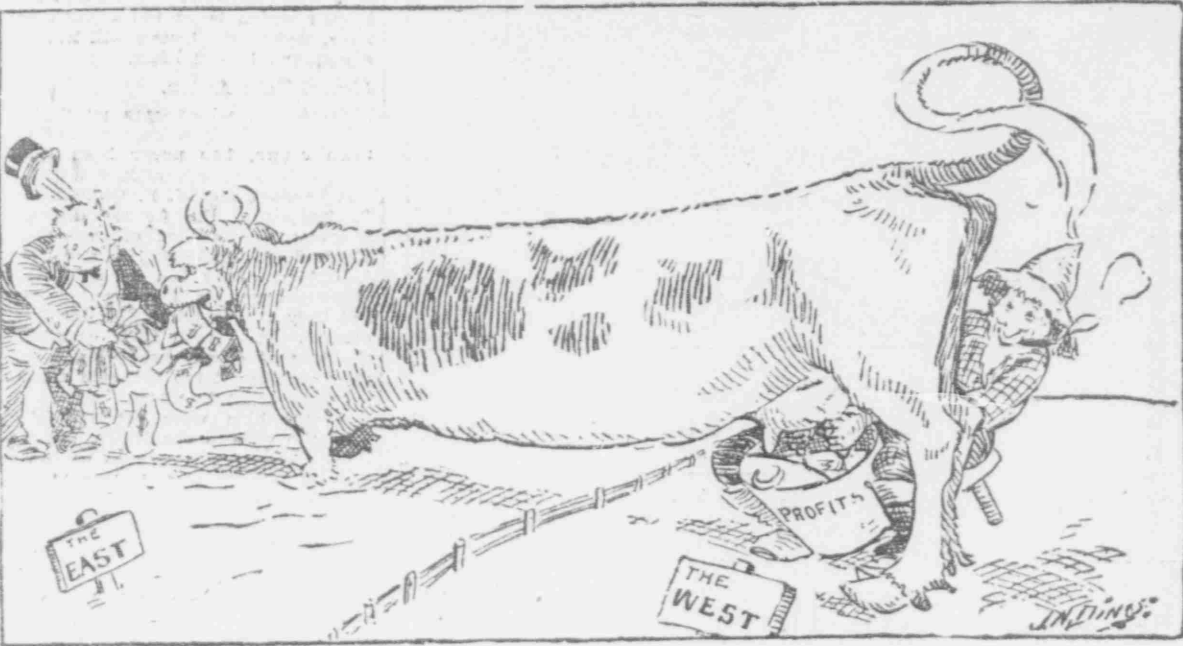
Second bald-headed man—What did you do?

First bald-headed man—Had a spider's web tattooed on my bald spot.—New York Mail.

## THE FARMER AS HE WAS AND AS HE IS



THE WAY IT USED TO BE



THE WAY IT IS NOW.

## Aged Woman Predicted Her Death Week Ago

Miss Merillion, Who Had Nearly Reached the Century Mark, Dreamed She Would Pass Away Saturday, September 8.

Fulfilling a prediction made a week ago that she would die on Saturday, September 8, Miss Rebecca C. Merillion, who had attained the age of ninety-eight years, lies cold in death at her home, 725 Twentieth street northwest. Miss Merillion boarded with Mrs. A. M. Forrester, and last Saturday, while chatting with her landlady, told of her superstitious belief in her death yesterday. The two were seated in Miss Merillion's room, and the deceased then gave it as her positive belief, based upon some peculiar dream which she had the night previous, that death would soon come.

Deceased was a native of England, having been born there in 1808. With her people she moved to America in 1818, and for many years lived in New York. With her people she afterward lived in Chicago, Denver, and other cities of the States. She was perhaps one of the most remarkably well preserved people to attain her advanced age, possessing an active mind and a winning and graceful personality. She had outlived all of her relatives, the last of them to die being two sisters. Miss Merillion will be interred beside their graves in Congressional Cemetery.

For the last quarter of a century deceased had been a resident of Washington. She enjoyed splendid health until her ninety-eighth birthday early last March, and her friends say that she has been gradually failing since then.

For many years she was an active member of Western Presbyterian Church, and despite her old age, she was to be found each Sunday in her pew taking active part in the services. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at the residence, and will be conducted by her pastor, the Rev. George Bailey.

ONCE WHIPPED EDWARD VII.

At Osborne castle, one of the favorite residences of King Edward of England, is a gardener, Fred Attrill by name, who is now sixty-eight years old and who has had the distinction of soundly thrashing England's sovereign. Attrill was employed fifty years ago at the building of Osborne cottage. The Prince of Wales, now King Edward, used to go down to watch the building and one day in a fit of mischief he struck Attrill with his stick. Attrill immediately gave the future King a severe pummeling. Queen Victoria heard of the incident and after investigating the merits of the controversy gave the prince a stern rebuke and made Attrill a gardener, a post he has held ever since.

LESE MAJESTE.

"Lese-majeste" or "lese-majesty" or "lese-majesty" is an adaptation of the old Roman "laesa majestas" (offended majesty), by which was expressed the idea of any crime against the sovereign power. Sovereign power, however, became blended with and lost sight of in the person in which that power rested, and the day came, in the time of Tiberius when a man who dared to change his clothing in the presence of any image of the Emperor subjected himself to a charge of lese-majesty.

FAMILY INFORMATION.

Teacher—Now, can any of the class mention any other animal that belongs to the brute creation?

New pupil—My papa does.

Teacher—Good gracious! Who says so?

New pupil (timidly)—My mamma.—Baltimore American.

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REFUSE SUBSTITUTES.

## FAMOUS PARIS WIDOWS OWN TOBACCO SHOPS

Government Grants Licenses for This Business as Special Evidence of Favor.

PARIS, Sept. 8.—When the government wishes to confer a favor on the widow or the orphan of a deceased officer or civil functionary, it accords her the concession of a tobacco shop. The minister of finance has just had the list drawn up for presentation to parliament of the tobacco shops which he granted last year. There are 286 of them, and among the beneficiaries are the widows of two deputies, two senators, a musical composer, an admiral, a general of brigade, two presidents of courts of law, an ex-minister, a public prosecutor, and others. Besides these widows the following individuals among others have been given tobacco shops: an ex-actress of the Comedie Francaise, the daughter of a "proscrit," the father of seventeen children, and the father of a non-commissioned officer murdered in Madagascar.

NEW WAR CLOUD IN AFRICA.

The new British liberal ministry, which abhors the war god and all his works, must feel that fate is treating it unkindly in stirring up trouble abroad just when it has on hand a sufficiency of domestic difficulties which clamor for solution. A few weeks ago Sir Edward Grey, secretary of state for foreign affairs, warned the house of commons that it must be prepared for warlike eventualities in Egypt, and now comes word that the mad mullah of the warpath in Somaliland, in northeastern Africa, and that the British must send into the field a large expedition.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CHAIRMAN "TOM" TAGGART.

Chairman "Tom" Taggart again asks: "Why should I resign?" There are several reasons—principally the personal reason that Taggart is involved in an ugly gambling scandal, and the political reason that Taggart's retention of the Democratic chairmanship is a deliberate affront to his party in the eyes of its friends and a grave detriment to the cause in the judgment of its friends and opponents alike. Taggart's proved incompetency in the position would be ample reason for his retirement if none other existed.—New York World.

AT THE NIGHT SCHOOL.

Teacher (of rhetoric)—What do you suppose the poet means when he speaks of "the stuff that dreams are made of?"

Shaky Halred (rapt)—I guess he means a cut of mince pie at bedtime.

TRIALS OF SUNDAY CLOSING.

Since the rule of selling beer in soup bowls has been exposed the West Side liquor dealers may have to begin serving beer in ice cream sodas.—Kansas City Star.

## IRISH-AMERICAN CATHOLIC SOCIETIES

An important meeting of the Washington Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, which is composed of delegates from all the councils in this jurisdiction, was held on Friday evening, August 31, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and quite a number of matters came up for consideration of general interest to the society. Among the subjects discussed was the coming course of free lectures under the auspices of the organization, which will be given at the Knights of Columbus hall during the fall and winter. The establishment of a library was also advocated, and the chairman of the chapter was instructed to appoint a committee of five to further this commendable project.

The annual vesper service of the Knights was also considered, and the date of Sunday, October 14, was fixed upon for the holding of this great annual religious function, which for the past eight years has been a source of pride and gratification to all the members. It is not yet definitely understood at which church the vesper service will take place, the selection being left to the judgment of the State chapter, the Rev. P. J. O'Connell, pastor of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, South Capitol and M streets.

It can be stated, however, that arrangements are under way to make this year's vesper service excel those previously held.

For Entertainment of Visitors.

The national convention of the Knights of Columbus will be held next year in Norfolk, Va., and as at least three-fourths of the delegates attending the convention will pass through Washington, the local Knights are alive to the necessity of providing entertainment in this city for the many visitors. With that object in view the Washington chapter will shortly take the matter in hand, and active committees will be selected which will at once begin making arrangements for the suitable entertainment of the visiting delegates next year. Timothy M. King, Grand Knight of Potomac Council, and president of the Washington chapter, is authority for the statement that nothing will be left undone to make the stay in Washington of the delegates to the national convention one that will long be remembered for its social enjoyment and hearty fraternal spirit.

Many Candidates to Initiate.

Another large class of candidates will be initiated in Keane Council on the fourth Thursday of September, and following the initiation a social session will be conducted, to which many of the Knights of other councils will be invited. An elaborate program is being planned by the officers of Keane Council, and it is thought that the class to be initiated will be large enough to place Keane Council among the first in point of numerical strength and interest in the Washington organization.

Excursion to Colonial Beach.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church will conduct a grand family excursion today to Colonial Beach, the proceeds of which will be applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish during the coming winter. This is one of the principal sources of revenue accruing to this charitable and praiseworthy society, which enables it to relieve many pressing necessities of the poor during the severe winter weather. The boats will leave for Colonial Beach this morning between 9 and 10 o'clock, and it is expected that the excursion will be well patronized, as a large number of tickets have been sold.

St. Aloysius Club Meeting.

A very well attended meeting of the St. Aloysius Club was held last Sunday morning at the clubrooms in the Gonzaga school building. This was the first general meeting of the members

of the club since May and the officers feel very much encouraged over the large attendance and the interest displayed. The annual election of officers of the club takes place at the October meeting, after which a program of entertainment will be outlined for the indoor enjoyment of the membership during the fall and winter.

The Election of Mr. Sheehy.

At the biennial convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of the District of Columbia, which took place Friday evening, August 24, a contest for the State presidency developed between J. F. O'Meara and Francis P. Sheehy, resulting in the election of Mr. Sheehy by three votes. P. J. Hattigan, who had been prominently mentioned for the office of District president, declined to run, his determination being only to accept the office should it come to him unanimously. The election of Mr. Sheehy has proven quite satisfactory to a large majority of the members, and it is predicted that he will make an excellent District president.

Mr. Sheehy is also the present executive head of the Knights of Columbus of the Washington jurisdiction, and is a popular young lawyer among his people. District President Sheehy is the present presiding officer of Division No. 4, the membership of which is largely composed of residents of South Washington.

Meeting of Carroll Council.

Carroll Council, of the Knights of Columbus, held a business meeting last Tuesday evening at the K. of C. Hall. The attendance was not very large, but a considerable amount of business was transacted. Nearly every member present had something to say on the good and welfare of the order, and plans were made for an active social season in this council. At the next meeting on Tuesday evening, September 18, a social session will be conducted and a program of entertainment presented which will be most attractive in its character.

Ladies' Auxiliary Convention.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the A. O. H. will hold their biennial State convention Thursday evening, September 13, at which the election of State officers for the ensuing two years will be the principal business. Miss Sadie Fitzpatrick, of Division No. 2, the present District president, has decided not to again be a candidate, and the contest for the District presidency is expected to be quite lively. The names of several ladies have been mentioned as Miss Fitzpatrick's successor, but so far no direct announcement of any candidate for the office has been made.

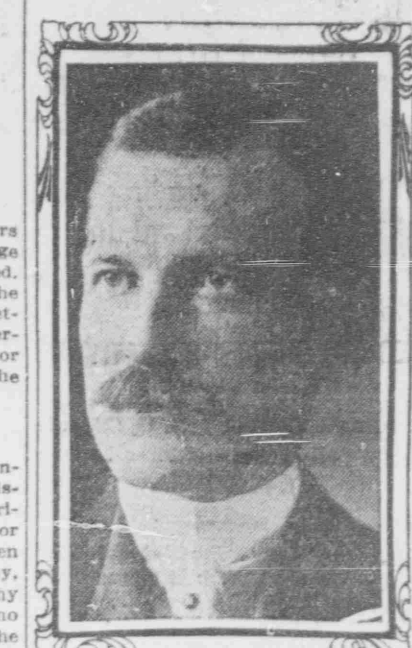
The present District officers of the auxiliary, under whose administration great progress has been made during the past two years, are: District president, Miss Sadie Fitzpatrick, of Division No. 2; vice president, Miss Catherine Batters, of Division No. 5; secretary, Miss C. F. Downing, of Division No. 1; treasurer, Miss Catherine Breen, Division No. 2.

A report of the recent national convention will be submitted by the Washington delegates. An unusual amount of interest attaches to the coming convention, at which much important business is to come up for action.

National President Coming.

National President Cummings, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, will make an official visit to Washington during the first week in October, and arrangements are now under way by the local organizations to give him a hearty reception. Mr. Cummings will be entertained while in the city by National Director Moran and National Editor Hattigan. In the reception, which will be tendered the national president, the Baltimore and Alexandria Hibernians will be invited to participate. On his

## NEW HIBERNIAN HEAD



FRANCIS P. SHEEHY, Recently Elected State President of A. O. H.

official visit National President Cummings will be accompanied to this city by National Director Edward T. McCrystal, of New York, and National Director Dr. William J. O'Brien, of Philadelphia, both of whom will deliver addresses at a joint meeting of the seven local divisions.

The Ladies' Auxiliary. It is said, will also set aside an evening for the suitable reception of National President Cummings, who is also the chief executive of the ladies' branch of the society. While in the city Mr. Cummings will in all probability pay his respects to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Cummings is a prominent official of the Boston city government, and his services are much appreciated by the present mayor. He began his career as an iron worker in the Boston navy yard, and step by step has advanced himself to a position of great trust and responsibility in the cabinet of Mayor Fitzgerald.

Mr. Cummings is undoubtedly one of the most popular men of the Irish race in the State of Massachusetts.

The Maryland Hibernians.

It will be a matter of interest to the Hibernians of Washington to learn that at the recent State convention of the order in Maryland, held at Oakland, Dr. Patrick F. Martin, of Baltimore, was elected State president; vice president, John T. McGinn, of Leesonsburg; secretary, D. J. Scully, of Baltimore, and treasurer, William F. Walsh, of Baltimore. This new board of officers is composed of young men who are deeply enthusiastic with the spirit of Hibernianism, and whose guidance the A. O. H. in Maryland will make rapid strides of advancement during the coming two years. Ocean City was chosen as the next place of meeting in 1908, it being regarded as a desirable resort for summer gatherings, and also a good thing to introduce the order to the people of that section of the State.

A visit of the Maryland State officers will shortly be made to their Washington brothers, and joint action will be taken looking toward the introduction of Irish history in the Catholic schools and academies of the arch diocese of Baltimore.

HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS.

When Governor Head was in office in New Hampshire, Colonel Barrett, an estimable member of the governor's staff, died, and there was an unseemly scramble of would-be successors for the office, even while his body was awaiting burial with military honors. One candidate, somewhat bolder than the rest, ventured to call upon Governor Head, thinking to ascertain the bent of the governor's mind upon the important question. "Governor," he said, "not to speak in a manner too positive, do you think you would have any objections if I were to get into Colonel Barrett's place?" The answer came promptly: "No, I don't think I should have any objections if the undertaker is willing."

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